

Kentucky Higher Education
Assistance Authority
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COUNSELOR CONNECTION

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HIGH SCHOOL

NCAA accepting transcripts through GoHigherKY.org

The NCAA Eligibility Center is now accepting electronic transcripts sent through the Transcript Exchange System of www.GoHigherKY.org, the state's one-stop college planning Web site. The Transcript Exchange System is powered by Xap Corporation.

"Electronic transcripts save time and money, and they simplify the college admissions process for students, parents and counselors," said Dave Wellman of KHEAA.

"The transcript process is also secure because transcripts are sent directly from the high school to the college and the NCAA. When the student-athlete requests it, the counselor simply chooses the NCAA Eligibility Center from the list of institutions in the Counselor Center of www.GoHigherKY.org," Wellman said.

If you would like more information about how to join the Transcript Exchange System, please contact Wellman at 502.696.7493, dwellman@kheaa.com, or Pennie Little at 502.696.7495, plittle@kheaa.com.

Mary Jo Young Scholarship application now available

The Mary Jo Young Scholarship provides assistance with tuition and textbook expenses for high school students who are enrolled in dual credit courses at a Kentucky college or university and/or Advanced Placement courses through the Kentucky Virtual High School. Awards are made with priority to students who are eligible for free- and reduced price-lunch and first-generation college enrollees.

The amounts of the scholarship are up to \$370 for tuition for one course each semester, up to \$730 for tuition for two courses each semester, plus a textbook reimbursement allowance of \$125 per course.

Scholarship applications for the 2009–2010 year are now being accepted. Students must complete the paper application included with this newsletter or go to www.kheaa.com to print out their own application. This year's application includes a counselor certification section. Both the student and counselor portions should be completed before the application is returned to KHEAA.

Applications should be mailed to KHEAA, Mary Jo Young Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602-0798 and must be postmarked by May 15. Additional questions about the scholarship program can be directed to Beth Lane at 800.928.8926, ext. 67229, or blane@kheaa.com.

Students can win up to \$2,500 in video contest

A video contest sponsored by Xap Corporation and Bridges Transitions Inc. is currently featured at GoHigherKY.org. Your students could win up to \$2,500 by submitting a video which shows how they are ready to take their career plans into the world. The video must not exceed 3 minutes in length. The deadline to submit an entry is March 31.

To enter, students must upload their video to a video hosting site such as SchoolTube, YouTube, Google Video, Yahoo Video, etc.

They must also complete the entry form which includes their name, school, school address, educator contact information, guardian contact information, length of video, and agreement to the rules and regulations. A signed copy of the copyright release form must be e-mailed, faxed or mailed to the attention of Video Contest c/o Xap Corporation/Bridges Transitions Co. and postmarked before Tuesday, March 31.

Students can enter as individuals, or they can work as teams with up to five students. All team members must be students.

The first prize is worth \$2,500, second prize \$1,500, and third prize \$1,000.

Please encourage your students to go to www.GoHigherKY.org for more details.



FAFSA deadline for state program priority is March 15

As high school seniors are preparing for prom and graduation, they are also making choices about where to attend college and how to pay for their education. Seniors planning to attend college during the 2009-2010 school year should apply for financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. By applying online, students receive their results much faster than if they mail in a paper FAFSA.

Early application is the key to receiving the most assistance. Kentucky's priority deadline for applying for aid using the FAFSA is March 15. Please encourage your students to apply early as funding for state grants, such as the College Access Program (CAP) Grant and the Kentucky Tuition Grant (KTG), is limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

If your students have questions regarding the application process for financial aid, they can visit the financial aid office at the college they plan to attend. Each school has counselors willing to help students with the process.

KEES training dates available for coordinators, counselors

Dates for the annual Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) training are now available for 2009. KHEAA will once again conduct training via Microsoft Office Live Meeting, a web-based tool that lets you participate in a training session from the convenience of your own office.

Since this year's training will feature information regarding the new AP/IB bonus to the KEES program and several modifications that are being made to KHEAA's website as a result, **all district coordinators are encouraged to participate this year.** We also encourage you to extend the invitation to additional staff in your school district that work with KEES and would benefit from training on the program. Other topics for each session include an in-depth review of rules and regulations related to the KEES program, how to submit student records and end-of-the-year files through Zip Access on www.kheaa.com, KEES eligibility criteria, participating colleges and much more.

Three sessions are planned for April. The topics discussed in each session will be identical, with sessions lasting about 2 hours. Available dates and times are:

Tuesday, April 21, at 1 p.m. EST

Thursday, April 23, at 9:30 a.m. EST

Thursday, April 30, at 9:30 a.m. EST

To register for training, please send an e-mail with your preferred training date to Megan Cummins at mcummins@kheaa.com by **Friday, April 10**. When your request has been received, you will receive an e-mail that includes a link for accessing the training site, a phone number, and a



participant code for your requested session. If this will be your first time using Microsoft Office Live Meeting, you are encouraged to enter the training site at least 30 minutes before the session starts to install the program on your computer. Otherwise, you will not be able to view the online portion of the training.

Two hours of Effective Instructional Leadership Act (EILA) credit have been approved for this training session. Because our training will be held via the Intranet, those who would like to receive EILA credit must notify KHEAA when they register. An announcement will be made during the training session regarding confirmation of your participation and receipt of your certificate.

Feel free to contact Megan Cummins at mcummins@kheaa.com or at 800.928.8926, ext. 67397, with any questions or concerns that you may have about KEES or training events.

To insure proper credit is given to KEES awards, students taking the state-wide administered ACT exam should use their Social Security Number (SSN) instead of their State Student Identification Number (SSID).

'Zip' to financial aid information at www.kheaa.com

Three Zip features at www.kheaa.com provide important information that help Kentucky students and parents learn about and apply for student financial aid. Zip Access, Zip Decision and Zip Answer are unique features available only on KHEAA's website.

Zip Access lets students check their KEES award, apply for the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, KHEAA Teacher Scholarship and Early Childhood Development Scholarship and check the status of federal student loans guaranteed by KHEAA. The sign-in function for Zip Access is at the top of the KHEAA home page.

Parents will find Zip Decision a helpful online resource if they are applying for a Federal PLUS Loan to help pay for their child's education. Using Zip Decision, parents may get immediate pre-approval for a loan originated through KHEAA. The credit decision is valid for 120 days.

Zip Answer provides answers to hundreds of questions about state and federal student aid. Users may choose a topic or type a word or phrase into a search box. By choosing KEES as a topic, Zip Answer will bring up many of the most commonly-asked questions and answers about KEES.

The sign-in functions for Zip Decision and Zip Answer are on the right-hand side of the KHEAA home page.

Visit www.kheaa.com to check out Zip Access, Zip Decision and Zip Answer. For more information on how to plan and prepare for higher education, visit www.GoHigherKY.org.

Kim Dolan provides outreach to Jefferson County residents

As a way to get to know your outreach counselor, we are featuring Kim Dolan in this edition of the *Counselor Connection*. Different counselors will be featured in future editions.

Kim Dolan works with students, parents and counselors in Jefferson County as an outreach counselor for KHEAA. The outreach program seeks to increase the state's college-going rate, tell Kentuckians about the advantages of continuing their education after high school and provide information about the agencies' services and financial aid programs.



County: Jefferson

Years of Service: 3

Professional Goals: Once I complete my MBA, I would like to move into the management and business aspects of education.

Educational Background: BS, Management, Western Kentucky University; working on MBA, Morehead State University

Hobbies: Travel, home improvement, gardening, reading

Personal Motto or Favorite Quote: "You have to stand for something, or you'll fall for anything."

Personal Hero: My parents

Contact Kim at:
kdolan@kheslc.com
 1.502.759.1776



2009–2010 Mary Jo Young Scholarship Application

The Mary Jo Young Scholarship, sponsored by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, provides assistance with tuition and textbooks for high school students who are enrolled in dual credit classes at a Kentucky college or university and/or Advanced Placement courses through Kentucky Virtual Schools. Students taking AP courses will need to complete this application AND register for the course through the Kentucky Virtual Schools. Go to www.kyvs.org, click on the KVHS tab, then on the application link.

Applications must be submitted by May 15, 2009

PLEASE PRINT

Student Name: _____
First Middle Initial Last

Address: _____
Street/P.O. Box City State ZIP

Birth date: _____ **SSN** _____

E-mail: _____ **Phone:** () _____

Grade level for 2009–2010: 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐

Ethnicity: Black (not Hispanic) ☐ Asian ☐ White (not Hispanic) ☐ Hispanic ☐
Native American ☐ Other _____

Parents' highest level of school completed:

Father Middle school ☐ High school ☐ Some college ☐ College degree ☐

Mother Middle school ☐ High school ☐ Some college ☐ College degree ☐

Name of high school: _____ **Phone:** () _____

County: _____

If awarded, will this scholarship be used for: Dual credit courses ☐ AP courses ☐ Both ☐

How many courses will you sign up for?

The scholarship cannot exceed a total
of two courses per semester.

Dual credit
Fall semester

AP
Fall semester

Dual credit
Spring semester

AP
Spring semester

At which college will you take dual credit courses? _____

By signing this application, I certify all information reported to be accurate and true to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that if I am awarded a Mary Jo Young Scholarship, I will complete the courses for which funds are provided.

Student Signature _____ **Date** _____

I certify that this student qualified for free or reduced lunch during high school. ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, list qualifying years _____

Name of guidance counselor: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Counselor signature _____ **Date** _____

Please send completed application to:

KHEAA
Mary Jo Young Scholarship Program
P.O. Box 798
Frankfort, KY 40602-0798